



Iredell County Parks & Recreation Department Coaches Code of Conduct



Iredell County Parks & Recreation Department (ICPRD) Coach’s Code enumerates basic requirements, organized under four principles. They are: setting a good example; keeping players safe; ensuring that all participants in ICPRD have a positive experience; and relating to game officials in an exemplary manner and encouraging players to do the same.

1. Setting a Good Example

The coach’s example is powerful. If a coach insist on fair play, concentrates on players’ enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and supports the referee, players and parents will notice. If a coach discourages (or allows) player to play outside the rules, are overly concerned about the results, and/or criticize the referee or opposing coach, players and parents will also notice. Above all, children deserve a coach they can respect.

- Coaches, in all contact with ICPRD players, parents, officials and coaches, should strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct. Before, during, and after the game, they should be an example of dignity, patience, and positive spirit.
- Before games, opposing coaches should meet and exchange greetings to set the proper tone for the game. After games, the teams and coaches should meet and congratulate each other in a sportsmanlike manner.
- Coaches should ensure their players’ soccer experience is one of improvement in skill, and fun and enjoyment (winning is only part of it). Players should never be yelled at, lectured or ridiculed for making mistakes or losing a game. Coaches should be generous with praise when it is deserved.
- Coaches should avoid any conduct which could be construed as physically, sexually or verbally abusive.
- Coaches should completely refrain from verbal dissent during a game with an opposing coach’s bench.
- Coaches should honor all professional relationships with colleagues, associations, the media, officials and the public. Conflicts of interests and exploitation of these relationships must be avoided.

2. Keeping Players Safe

Coaches should have the safety of the players in their charge as their first priority at all times. Coaches should be familiar with the facility(ies) and fields on which their teams practice and play, and be mindful of the levels of fitness and skill of each one of their players. Coaches should also be familiar with the Laws of the Game, current with principles of age-appropriate coaching, aware of ICPRD existing rules and regulations.

- Coaches should check players’ equipment and playing facilities frequently. They should meet safety standards and be appropriate for the age and ability of players.
- Coaches should follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to play again. During a game, and in an absence of medical advice, coaches should err on the side of caution in permitting an injured player to return to play.

3. Creating a Positive Experience

ICPRD wishes to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for the children and adults involved. A soccer game should be friendly and unifying - a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, referees, and spectators.

- Coaches should require all players and spectators to adhere to the highest level of sportsmanship at all times. During the game, the coach is responsible for the sportsmanship of the players. If a player is carded or is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, the coach should remove the player from the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down. Coaches should explain acceptable behavior to players and parents at a preseason meeting. Encourage parents to make positive comments about good play by either team. Prohibit them from yelling at players and the referee

4. Relating to Officials

Coaches should demonstrate respect for the official and his/her role. Coaches can help referees improve by letting them concentrate on the game, accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes, and offering constructive post-game comments.

- Before a game, coaches should introduce themselves to the referee. During the game, they should never address the referee except to request a substitution. After the game, they should thank the referee and ask players to do the same.
- A small disagreement should be discussed with the referee calmly after the game. For major complaints, or if the referee appeared to be unfair, biased, unfit, or incompetent, report opinions to your association coordinator and the ICPRD Athletic Director.

Acknowledgement

I have read, understand and hereby agree to abide by and support this ICPRD Coach’s Code of Conduct.

Coach’s Name: _____

Coach’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

Association Name: _____ Age Division: _____ Team Name(s): _____